

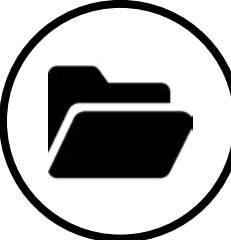
2021 Program Portfolio



Program Portfolio
Investment by area
2021 Programs in figures
Areas of intervention



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2021 Program Portfolio

During 2021 we worked with 27 organizations and financed 34 programs aimed at improving the education of more than 5,000 students (preschoolers, schoolchildren and adolescents) and educators. This includes both programs in our portfolio (approved by the Board) and earmarked donations.

Of the total USD 896,031 channeled, USD 411,591 came from the foundation's own funds; USD 243,142 were donor-earmarked contributions, USD 17,000 came from special corporate donations and USD 224,298 from partnerships with companies and other foundations.

27
organizations

34
programs

5000
students



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2021 investment by area

| Areas of intervention | Amount invested in US dollars | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------|
| | Non-earmarked donations | Earmarked donations* | Special donations* | Partnerships* | Total |
| Area 1: Tutorius Network | 102,300 | 9,081 | - | - | 111,381 |
| Area 2: Socio-emotional Learning | 69,105 | - | - | - | 69,105 |
| Area 3: Principal, Teachers and Educators Training | 118,769 | 27,500 | 17,000 | - | 163,269 |
| Area 4: Early Childhood | 57,917 | - | - | - | 57,917 |
| Area 5: Other programs | 63,500 | 206,561 | - | 224.298 | 494,369 |
| Total | 411,591 | 243,142 | 17,000 | 224.298 | 896,031 |

***Earmarked donations**

These are funds where the donor chooses the beneficiary.

***Special donations**

These are funds donated by Uruguayan companies under the Special Donations System of the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

***Partnerships**

These are funds managed by ReachingU and donated by other foundations and companies to be used by educational institutions. The funds from special donations and partnerships go directly to the institutions and are not channeled through ReachingU.

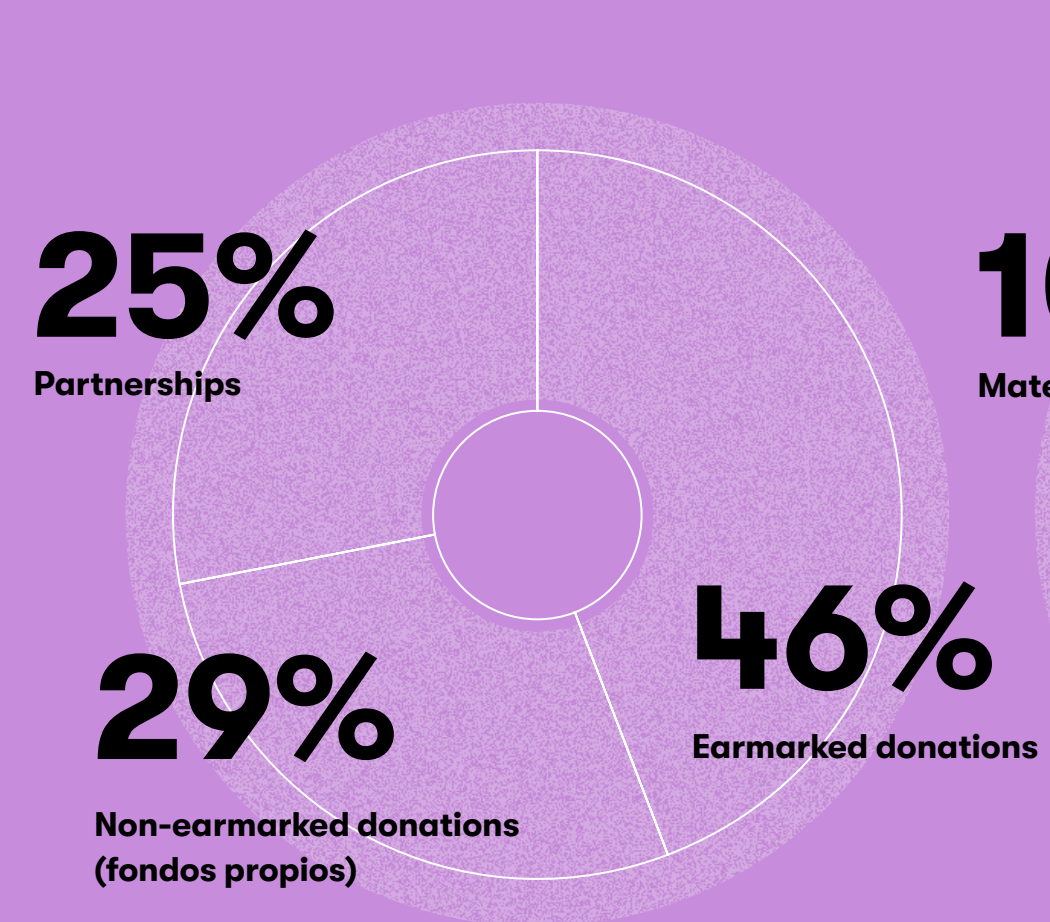
As the funds from “special donations” (Uruguayan companies under a law for tax deductible donations) and partnerships are awarded to these beneficiaries thanks to the efforts of Fundación ReachingU, they are not registered in our 2021 balance sheet audit or in this annual report.

The organizations that received these funds are the following: Madres de la Cruz (USD 16,400), Obra Educativa Don Bosco (USD 15,000), Los Pinos (USD 5,800), Escuela Chimont (USD 6,650), Ceprodih (USD 3,000), Fundación Sophia (USD 1,161), Hogar Maristas (USD 1,800), UNESCO (USD 141,750), MACA (USD 10,000) and Ánima, Bachillerato Tecnológico (USD 224,298).

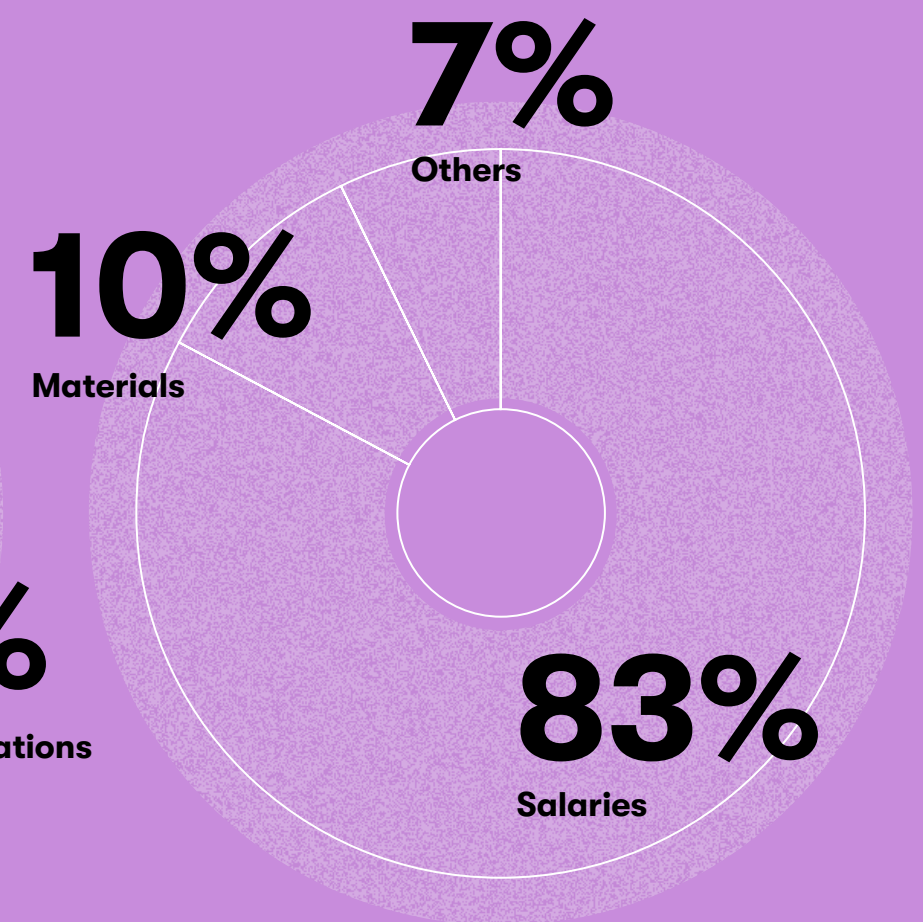
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Programs in figures

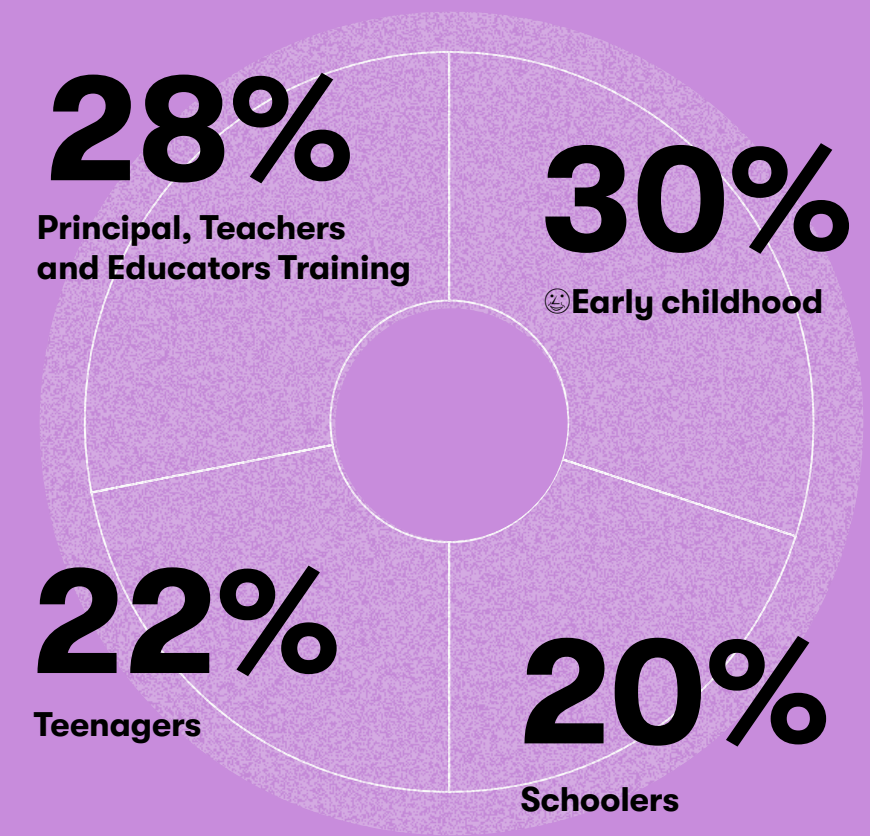
Investment by sources
of financing:



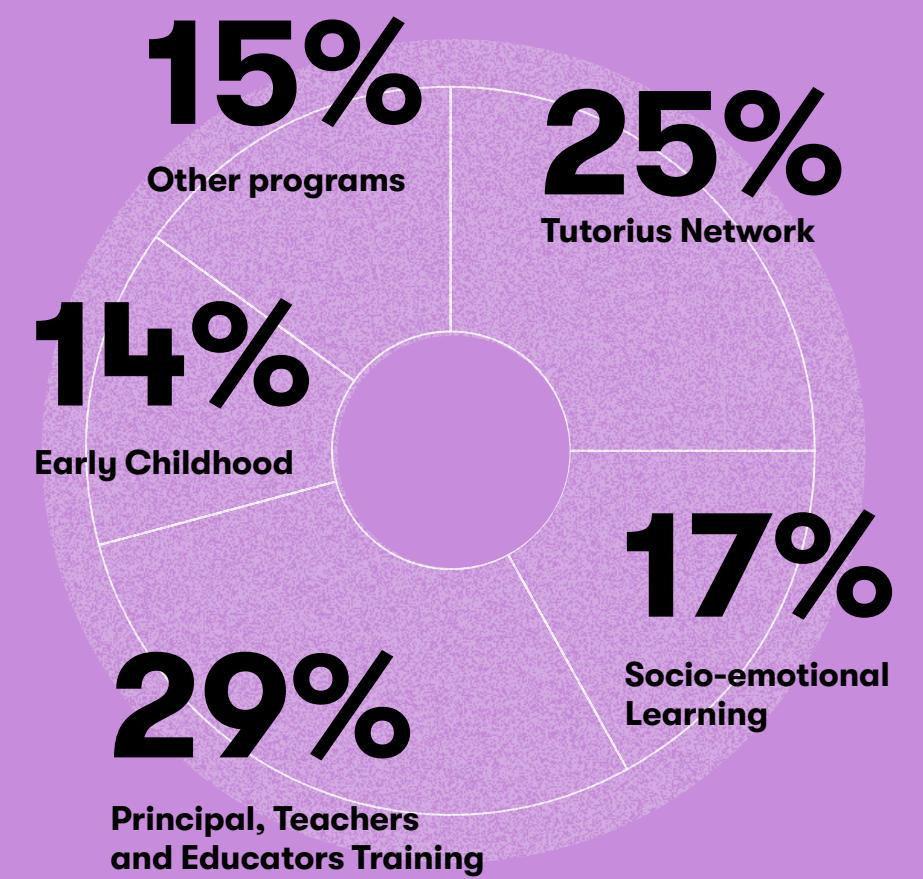
Destination of the funds
invested:



Direct beneficiaries
of the total invested:



Total investment of own
funds of Fundación
ReachingU by area:



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Areas of intervention

Area 1: Tutorius
Network



Cimientos Uruguay - “Future Graduates” program: Tutoring for middle high school students and support for their families

PROGRAM SUMMARY: “Future Graduates” is a program that provides one-on-one coaching to middle school students. An adult responsible for each student is also present in the tutoring/coaching sessions so that together monthly objectives can be set. Students also receive a monthly stipend for school-related expenses. This stipend contributes to decreasing the chances of dropping out of school because of economic hardship. The program also includes group meetings with other tutored students

PROGRAM EXECUTED BY: [Fundación Cimientos Uruguay](#)

OBJECTIVES:

- Strengthen the participants’ academic performance
- Getting them to complete junior high school

BENEFICIARIES: 30 students

AMOUNT INVESTED: USD 32,700



**Author**

Director, Fundación
Salir Adelante

Getting Ahead through Education

The Program Salir Adelante was started in 2009 following an initiative of B'nai B'rith Uruguay. It was designed as a non-formal education coaching strategy, to provide young people with tools that would enable them to thrive with their formal education and expand their academic performance.

In Uruguay, only 4 out of 10 young people complete secondary school, a figure that places us below the Latin American average (INEEd, 2020). As we focus on the socioeconomic dimension, we see that those who come from "very favorable" backgrounds are almost five times more

likely to finish secondary school than those from "very unfavorable" backgrounds (68.7% and 17.8%; Source INNEd 2019).

In view of this, our Program works with state-run (public) high school students from vulnerable socioeconomic backgrounds and with good academic performance. They are offered support during the three years of high school, including material support (food, cleaning items, books); technology-digital items (computer and internet connectivity); and socio-educational support, through individual and group tutorships.

The objectives of the tutorships include:

- To expand education performance, helping them pass their academic year.
- To provide them with skills so that each student may discover their vocation.
- To generate opportunities through the expansion of socio-educational networks.
- To develop interpersonal social-emotional skills

[Read more](#)

“Salir Adelante” program: Tutoring and academic support for high school students in their last years of secondary school

PROGRAM SUMMARY: “Salir Adelante” provides coaching, tutoring and financial support for high school students from socially vulnerable homes who demonstrate very good academic performance.

PROGRAM EXECUTED BY:

[Fundación Salir Adelante, B'nai B'rith Uruguay](#)

OBJECTIVES:

- Drive more young Uruguayans from public high schools to complete their Baccalaureate
- Contribute to the expansion of the educational trajectory of the participants of the Program, in their construction of citizenship and in the use of sustainable advocacy networks
- Get involved in the training of young people, to provide them with the necessary skills to remain in formal education, grow as active citizens and in turn, be multipliers of their experience in their environments
- Promote the development of social/emotional skills among the young

BENEFICIARIES: 10 high school students

AMOUNT INVESTED: USD 19,024

Centro Educativo Talitakum: Yo Apruebo (I pass)

PROGRAM SUMMARY: The program Yo apruebo (I pass!) provides guidance, personalized coaching and pedagogical support through face-to-face and virtual tutorials in differential spaces. It improves the participants' learning, promotes a renewed engagement with schools and helps students pass their exams. It provides personalized and comprehensive coaching to vulnerable adolescents at the brink of dropping out or flunking their formal education. This hybrid modality consists of telephone and/or video calls, audiovisual aids, interaction in a virtual platform and face-to-face classes.

PROGRAM EXECUTED BY: [Centro Educativo Talitakum](#)

OBJECTIVES:

- Promote a personalized and comprehensive accompaniment of adolescents.
- Provide a space for coaching and pedagogical support, enhancing participants' learning.
- Encourage the students to successfully sit for junior high school exams.
- Promote the advancement and completion of the secondary education basic cycle (junior high school).
- Help youngsters develop the tools and skills they will need to remain in school and ensure the continuity of their education.

BENEFICIARIES: 32 students

AMOUNT INVESTED: USD 9,843

Enseña Uruguay (Teach for All - Uruguay) - Educational Support Space

PROGRAM SUMMARY: Students from vulnerable contexts will receive support from teachers of Enseña Uruguay, who are already qualified for this task. The program participants are high school students who lost many hours of class during the pandemic because they did not have a device or had internet access problems at home. Many of these students require curricular adjustments and have pending exams and overdue subjects, as well as significant performance gaps. The teachers of Enseña Uruguay provide support classes and personalized teaching. The beneficiaries are students from public high schools No. 25 and No. 45, the Don Bosco Vocational School, and two schools in Casavalle, (Centro Educativo Comunitario de Casavalle and Centro Educativo Asociado de Casavalle).

PROGRAM EXECUTED BY: [Enseña Uruguay](#)

OBJECTIVES:

- Provide support classes to students from vulnerable backgrounds.
- Participate in the coordination with the management team and the rest of the teachers, to promote integrated work.
- Prevent dropouts among these students.
- Improve student learning.

BENEFICIARIES: 150 students

AMOUNT INVESTED: USD 10,000

Centro Educativo Los Tréboles - Tutoring Program

PROGRAM SUMMARY: Adolescents that attend the Los Tréboles Youth Center receive personalized 90-minute coaching sessions twice a week. Three experienced tutors will oversee the coaching, assisted by 10 volunteers (previously trained for this role) and a coordinator, who organizes, articulates and supports the team. The plan is to have in-person activities (local sanitary conditions permitting); otherwise, the coaching sessions will be conducted online.

PROGRAM EXECUTED BY: [Centro Educativo Los Tréboles](#)

OBJECTIVES:

- Promote autonomous and proactive learning that favors the maturation of adolescents and fosters their commitment with the learning process.
- Promote the adolescents' containment and motivation for studying through close bonding and development of trust with their tutors.
- Promote the order, organization and planning of the study of adolescents.

BENEFICIARIES: 38 students

AMOUNT INVESTED: USD 10,000

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Fundación ReachingU - Tutorius

PROGRAM SUMMARY: Design a virtual tutoring program based on international experiences to reduce the learning lags detected among junior high school students and perform a proof of concept in one UTU Middle Education center (vocational).

To start, the virtual coaching was in the hands of students from the University of Montevideo, but it is to be expanded to other private universities and UdelaR (Uruguay's public Universidad de la República). In 2021 the proposal was presented to the different universities and they all expressed their interest to join in.

PROGRAM EXECUTED BY: Fundación ReachingU

OBJECTIVES: Reduce learning lags

BENEFICIARIES: 16 students

AMOUNT INVESTED: USD 9,081

Public Education National Administration - Systematization and improvement of accompaniment strategies in ANEP

PROGRAM SUMMARY: Mapping of the proposals and coaching roles for students attending the compulsory education cycles of the Public Education National Administration. The final purpose was to propose a set of suggestions and lines of action that may contribute to strengthen, optimize and/or complement the resources already available.

PROGRAM EXECUTED BY: Fundación ReachingU

OBJECTIVES:

- Provide updated and systematic information on the various resources and roles currently available at ANEP for student support (in its various forms and offered by different actors), specifically to cover compulsory education
- Propose a well-founded set of evidence-based suggestions on how to optimize what is already available, and add new forms of accompaniment
- Based on the survey results, suggest potential lines for future actions, to propose necessary milestones for new interventions.

BENEFICIARIES: Todo el sistema educativo uruguayo

AMOUNT INVESTED: USD 20,733



Areas of intervention

Area 2: Socio - emotional Learning



Gurises Unidos - Social-emotional education training for teachers

PROGRAM SUMMARY: This practical course introduces teachers from public schools across Uruguay to the basic aspects of social-emotional learning, so they can easily apply this training in their classrooms.

This year two new components are added to this program: a module for teachers to work with the families of their students and virtual workshops that address the issue of digital citizenship and strengthen digital skills.

PROGRAM EXECUTED BY: [Gurises Unidos](#)

OBJECTIVES:

Objectives of hybrid training:

- To promote the incorporation of work tools that may enable teachers to contribute to the development of skills and competencies that strengthen emotional development and facilitate teaching and the children's learning processes at education centers

Objectives of the module of family work were:

- To share theoretical content and hands-on tools linked to Emotional Education.
- To revalue the importance of the approach to the promotion of socio-emotional skills in children and adolescents with families, to promote their emotional well-being .

BENEFICIARIES: 562 teachers and 50 families

AMOUNT INVESTED: USD 39,750

“Proyecto Mariposa”: Artistic intervention of public school walls

PROGRAM SUMMARY: Aside from teaching kids mosaic techniques, the main objective of “Proyecto Mariposa” (Butterfly) is to portray art as a vehicle for integration and social inclusion. It consists of the artistic intervention of public-school walls in underprivileged areas while involving the entire school and neighborhood community.

PROGRAM EXECUTED BY: [Proyecto Mariposas Uruguay,](#) through B’nai B’rith Uruguay

OBJECTIVES:

- Develop the sensitivity of the beneficiaries through mosaic work, painting, and other arts, inspired by the Shoah (Jewish Holocaust) teachings, to educate in tolerance and warn about the danger of human frailty, in memory of each of the million and a half Jewish children killed, to prevent further bigotry acts against any group
- Defend the rights of children and adolescents through the symbol of the butterfly, which stands for tolerance, colors, diversity, and fragility.
- Bridging between the different stakeholders of the community near the education center.

AMOUNT INVESTED: USD 12,500

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Jóvenes Fuertes - “Character education training” for principals and teachers

PROGRAM SUMMARY: This program provides principals with theoretical and hands-on knowledge in the field of “character education and development of socio-emotional competencies”, so they can incorporate them into their own daily educational practice. The idea is to train them in innovative practices of Positive Psychology, promoting the well-being of principals and teachers

PROGRAM EXECUTED BY: [Asociación Civil Jóvenes Fuertes](#)

OBJECTIVES:

- Enhance the well-being of principals and educators. Training in innovative practices based on the contributions of Positive Psychology
- Provide tools for the incorporation of socio-emotional competencies that favor well-being and the application of character strengths at school and in their surroundings.
- Promote mental health and prevention of risky behaviors among the education community.

BENEFICIARIES: 52 principals and teachers from 25 schools

AMOUNT INVESTED: USD 16,855



Author:

PhD in Psychology
María José Soler

President of
Jóvenes fuertes

Character education training for principals and education leaders 2021

In 2021, with the support of the Fundación ReachingU, Jóvenes Fuertes implemented a training on character education and development of socio-emotional skills for principals and education leaders.

The pandemic brought about a change in the usual modality of meetings, so the activity took place in virtual training modules, and an in-person event on the closing day.

Fifty-two participants from 25 educational centers from across the country, including Montevideo, attended the activities.

The project covered two levels, primarily:

Education updating and teacher improvement, to train educators capable of applying positive psychology both personally and in their profession

Psychological intervention with the goal of promoting mental health among teachers and the educational community, while preventing occupational hazards

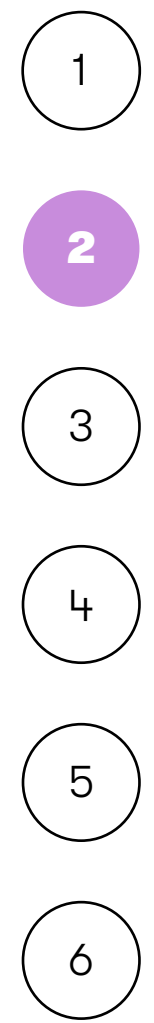
Here are some of the results obtained:

98% of the participants reported a better psychological well-being in several dimensions, such as emotional regulation, improvement in bonds and personal growth, among others.

98% of the participants managed to design and apply strategies based on social-emotional learning; they also designed center-specific campaigns and projects for 2022.

Participants reported high levels of satisfaction and applicability of the training received at the personal level and at work, either teaching or in managerial tasks at schools.

[Read more](#)



Areas of intervention

Area 3: Principal, Teachers and Educators Training



Alianza Uruguay – EE. UU. Aliados por la Educación.

PROGRAM SUMMARY: Participants in this training program attended four on-line courses on hybrid/ remote learning and teaching. The courses were: learning management system, keys to designing an online course, keys to delivering an online course and competencies for 21st century teachers.

PROGRAM EXECUTED BY:
[Alianza Uruguay -EE.UU.](#)

OBJECTIVES:

Each of the 4 courses had its specific objective:

- Provide technology training for the design of online courses
- Provide pedagogical knowledge to design online courses
- Train the trainers to deliver online courses effectively
- Incorporate the skills required by 21st century teachers

BENEFICIARIES: 268 teachers

AMOUNT INVESTED: USD 36,000

Edúcate Uruguay - Reading and natural sciences teaching techniques for teachers of rural schools in Soriano and Cerro Largo

PROGRAM SUMMARY: These two programs are aimed at consolidating student reading skills and developing an innovative teaching approach to natural sciences. “Leer es un Viaje” (Reading is a Journey) and “Zona de Exploración” (Exploration Zone) bring new teaching-learning methodologies and modern educational materials to rural schools.

PROGRAM EXECUTED BY: [Edúcate Uruguay](#)

OBJECTIVES:

- Integrate new teaching-learning methodologies at schools, to include both reading and audiovisual communication, considering they operate with multiple grades, together with modern, easily replaceable, and inspiring educational materials.
- Implement workshops and actions that promote challenging but attainable goals by generating an identity of continuous improvement, achievements, trust, and pride in rural schools.
- Encourage the rural educational community to use technology (CEIBAL) as a bridge to access education opportunities.
- Accompany the families, so they may help their children as they learn how to read, and engaging them in the process.
- Promote oral expression, integrating the use of technology to accelerate results in language development.
- Strengthen self-esteem through the creation of a product of high technical difficulty, and exposing the outputs socially.

PARTNERS: Bunge / Ganadera Santa Laura

AMOUNT INVESTED: USD 37,000 (earmarked and special donations)

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University of Montevideo - Leadership postgraduate degrees for principals

PROGRAM SUMMARY: The program was aimed at professionals in positions of leadership in public and private schools located both in Montevideo and in the interior of Uruguay. It offered a highly innovative training program that impacted the way they manage their schools and directly improves students' performance. In 2021 we funded the second year of the third generation of this postgraduate diploma.

PROGRAM EXECUTED BY: [Facultad de Humanidades y Educación \(HUM-E\) de la Universidad de Montevideo](#)

OBJECTIVES:

- To train managers in leadership, management, and education innovation through peer-to-peer learning and with specialists in the field of management and evaluation of educational centers
- Promote the two-year systematic improvement of institutional activities under the responsibility of the principal, through educational projects designed, developed, and supported by the University of Montevideo.
- Create learning communities committed to addressing the problems and challenges facing the Uruguayan education system today.

BENEFICIARIES: 27 principals

PARTNERS: Fundación Beisso Fleurquin and Puente Hermanos

AMOUNT INVESTED: USD 44,879

Fundación Sophia and Co-educa - Early childhood coursework

PROGRAM SUMMARY: Institutional grant to strengthen the team of the Centro Sophia de Innovación Pedagógica (Sophia Center for Pedagogical Innovation) to implement a focused and innovative curriculum for early childhood teachers. The Centro Sophia de Innovación Pedagógica provides training to teachers from public and private institutions.

PROGRAM EXECUTED BY: [Centro Sophia de Innovación Pedagógica](#) and Coeduca

OBJECTIVES:

- Design and implement a training for leading teachers of the CAIF (early childhood centers) plan to give them the necessary tools to supervise teacher practices.
- Design and implement a training for educators of the CAIF plan to give them the necessary tools to work with young children.

BENEFICIARIES: 161 teachers

AMOUNT INVESTED: USD 20,000

Fundación Sophia - Training in learning disorders and impairments for teachers in Paysandú

PROGRAM SUMMARY: Two four-month courses that served teachers, assistants and school management teams as an introduction to these subjects to enable them to detect symptoms and challenges in their students to help them with guidelines and strategies that favor the learning process. It was developed in a hybrid modality, with four in-person meetings and platform-based work.

PROGRAM EXECUTED BY: [Fundación Sophia](#)

OBJECTIVES:

Through the course the teachers who participate are expected to meet the following objectives:

- Acquire knowledge about the conceptualization of learning difficulties.
- Identify warning signs of learning impairment.
- Analyze and provide guidance on learning issues in the classroom and school.
- Raise awareness about inclusion and special educational needs. (SEN)
- Develop tools and strategies for working among teachers and interdisciplinary teams.
- Participate in the development and coordination of action guidelines to improve and enhance learning processes (curricular adaptations)
- List the set of good practices that guide the educator to intervene when students have learning difficulties.

BENEFICIARIES: 84

AMOUNT INVESTED: USD 23,390

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Areas of intervention

Area 4:
Early Childhood



Universidad de Montevideo, Universidad Católica del Uruguay and Fe y Alegría Uruguay - Promoting good parenting practices and strengthening family ties in early childhood centers

PROGRAM SUMMARY: Crianza Positiva (Positive Parenting) is a preventive family intervention that promotes good parenting practices and strengthens the bonds and family environment where children develop. This project aims to disseminate the Positive Parenting program, train technicians and seek the implementation of the program in new CAIF centers (early childhood centers) and the UCC team (Uruguay Crece Contigo – a program of the Ministry of Social Development)

PROGRAM EXECUTED BY: Universidad de Montevideo, Universidad Católica del Uruguay and Fe y Alegría Uruguay

OBJECTIVES:

Train, disseminate and accompany the implementation of the Crianza Positiva project at UCC: central team and teams from 3 departments of the country (San José, Tacuarembó and Río Negro). CAIF centers also participated as in all previous editions.

BENEFICIARIOS: 276 teachers

INVESTED AMOUNT: USD 17,125



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Author:

Leticia Riolfo,
Libros del Árbol Rojo

**Reading and artistic expression
for early childhood**

Al abrir un libro is a project that seeks to strengthen reading as a culture among the educational communities at the Early Childhood Care Centers (C.A.I.F.), engaging them in meaningful experiences where the oral and written word, literature and other expressive languages are promoted. In 2021, the participants included 12 CAIFs from Canelones, 1,400 families, and 140 CAIF teachers. More than 800 books were delivered.

The project has always involved four components: Training, Staffing, Coaching and Monitoring. These four components

apply both to the teachers and technical teams of CAIFs already working with the project, interested in moving ahead in their process, as well as new CAIF centers that join in. Hence, in the case of teams that have already participated, these components are preserved, but their contents and proposals delve into themes and modes of approach that have to do with early childhood, and new tools are proposed to promote interaction with all the participants.

The support of Fundación ReachingU is essential in this type of projects, since it involves guaranteeing the right of children to get educated as self-governing readers and to provide them with full access to expressive languages, play and culture. This right becomes apparent when you see the selection of books, especially chosen to enhance and enrich the children's reading experience. This allowed to generate significant situations around reading among children and families as well as among the educators of each CAIF.

[Read more](#)

**Libros del Árbol Rojo - Reading and
artistic expression for early childhood**

PROGRAM SUMMARY: The program ensures significant experiences with books and artistic expression at CAIF Centers (Centros de Atención a la Infancia y la Familia) in the department of Canelones. Its various components include education, coaching and monitoring of educators and families, and providing quality books to the CAIF centers.

PROGRAM EXECUTED BY: Libros del árbol rojo

OBJECTIVES:

- Encourage and promote reading and artistic expression languages in early childhood, favoring the integral development of boys and girls, executing a project sequenced and sustained over time.
- Incorporate reading aloud as a parenting practice, lending books to be read at home, and organizing workshops for families.
- Strengthen and qualify the pedagogical practices of teachers through workshops and virtual coaching.
- Promote communication skills, language, and creativity of children, reading aloud at school and at home with their families, with the books borrowed from the library.
- Strengthen the emotional bond between children and parents through reading aloud.

BENEFICIARIES: 1540 beneficiaries in early childhood and 148 teachers

INVESTED AMOUNT: USD 34,592

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Obra Social del Lago, CAIF “El abuelo Ubaldo” - Innovative working methodology at CAIF Centers

PROGRAM SUMMARY: This methodology developed by the Vaz Educational Center relies on organizing the learning space based on three axes: the rotation of children in thematic areas coordinated by different educators, the implementation of optional classrooms and the incorporation of children of different ages into the activities. Throughout 2021, the project was deployed at five CAIF centers (early childhood centers) in the department Treinta y Tres.

PROGRAM EXECUTED BY: Obra Social del lago. CAIF
“El abuelo Ubaldo”

OBJECTIVES:

- Train 10 teachers so that they can join and strengthen the training team.
- Expand this format to more centers so as to meet the existing demand.

BENEFICIARIES: 10 teachers

INVESTED AMOUNT: USD 6,200



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Areas of intervention

Area 5:
Other programs



Asociación Civil Hogar La Huella - After-school program for teenagers in Las Piedras

PROGRAM SUMMARY: Teenagers graduated from the “La Huellita Children’s Club” that are starting high school received coaching and mentoring, as well as access to a computer lab.

PROGRAM EXECUTED BY: [Asociación Civil La Huella](#)

OBJECTIVES:

- Promote the full development of adolescents and their families, monitoring their performance in the formal educational system through active participation involving the community, and seeing it through a biological, psychological, social and spiritual perspective of the human being.
- Accompany and sustain the educational process of the adolescent, seeking the full development of their abilities.
- Promote intergenerational coexistence strategies of participation and co-responsibility in the process of growth of adolescents, in the family and community environment.
- Encourage adolescents to integrate their life history in a healthy manner.

BENEFICIARIES: 20 teenagers

AMOUNT INVESTED: USD 28,000

Centro Juvenil y Deportivo Quebracho - Construction of a new site for “Centro Juvenil y Deportivo Quebracho”

PROGRAM SUMMARY: The expansion and improvement of the existing facilities will increase the number of teenagers that can attend “Quebracho”. The construction of this space will facilitate access to new agreements with the government to provide new services to those who attend.

PROGRAM EXECUTED BY: [Centro Juvenil y Deportivo Quebracho](#)

OBJECTIVES:

- Count with better facilities to enable better functioning of the center, and to cater to more adolescents.
- Having their own center will allow them to meet this objective, also increasing the human capital that can help them implement this. The idea is that the existence of a suitable place for the activity would put them in a position to reach an agreement with INAU (Institute of Children and Adolescents of Uruguay) that will allow them to almost double the number of adolescents served.

BENEFICIARIES: 83 adolescents

AMOUNT INVESTED: USD 28,000

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Third edition of the ReachingU Teacher Prize

PROGRAM SUMMARY: This prize publicly recognizes the teaching profession and its most outstanding players because of their potential to become key leaders of educational change in our country. The winner of the ReachingU Teacher Prize receives US\$5,000 to give continuity, deepen and expand an existing project.

PROGRAM EXECUTED BY: Fundación ReachingU

OBJECTIVES:

- Publicly highlight the ability to facilitate the educational change of our educators, as well as to render the work conducted by many teachers in Uruguay visible, and to celebrate that fact.
- Ensure that citizens recognize and value the teachers' essential job
- Impact on the teachers' culture itself, inviting the members of the community, to enhance the significance of their role as true agents of change, so they can feel people's appreciation for the task they perform.

PARTNER: Anonymous donor

AMOUNT INVESTED: USD 12.500



Author:

Samuel Costa,
winner of the 2021
ReachingU Prize for
Uruguayan Teachers

Telelunarejo: the importance of believing in education

February is a special month for teachers across Uruguay, as it is the time when we choose the school where we will work the entire year. February 2018 was no exception; it is when I chose to teach at school No. 29 in Lunarejo.

It was the third year in my career as a teacher; I would be in charge of a school a hundred kilometers from the city of Rivera, in a valley considered the fourth wonder of Uruguay. The place is surrounded by very special fauna and flora, protected by the National System of Protected Areas.

Several families live in the area, including nine children who attended school No. 29 in the Lunarejo Valley.

These children in particular were isolated from many things, including information, news and other people. They were afraid; they feared rejection, but essentially, they rejected themselves, their situation, and their dreams. Those were feelings they had to bear.

In view of all that, I decided to find a way to motivate those children, trying to give them the tools they needed to comprehend that they can actually believe in their goals, that they can achieve them and attain whatever they set themselves to get. This is how the project "Telelunarejo" came about: a channel on the YouTube platform where the children managed to showcase their classroom work in a number of videos that we would upload. This project helped us strengthen oral communication skills, linkages and all the areas and contents of the academic syllabus.

During the pandemic years, where the structures were modified, the tool that had begun as a complement to their classes, turned into a huge "battle chariot" that also intertwined the teacher-child-family bond.

[Read more](#)

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